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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 07874 050700 Z

11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /082 W
---------- 114587
R 050515 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

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EO 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT PINS VS
SUBJ: NGVN ATTITUDE TOWARD JOURNALISTS' CONTACT WITH VC

REF: SAIGON 7491

1. THE GVN APPEARS TO HAVE RELAXED ITS POLICY OF REPRIMANDING OR THREATENING TO EXPEL FOREIGN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS WHO VISIT VC- CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

2. RON MOREAU OF NEWSWEEK AND OLIVIER TODD OF NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR, PARIS, WHO SPENT ELEVEN DAYS AS GUESTS OF THE PRG IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, WERE NOT PENALIZED WHEN THEY RETURNED TO SAIGON, APRIL 29. AFTER RATHER PERFUNCTORY QUESTIONING AT NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE TWO JOURNALISTS WERE TOLD TO REPORT TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION HIEN ON MAY 2. AT THE MEETING, HIEN EXPRESSED MILD GVN DISPLEASURE WITH THE CORRESPONDENTS INTEREST IN VC ACTIVITIES, BUT ASSURED THEM THEY WOULD NOT BE PENALIZED. HE LATER RETURNED THEIR NOTES, EXPOSED FILM AND TAPES WHICH HAD BEEN CONFISCATED EARLIER BY AUTHORITIES IN AN XUYEN.

3. GVN BRIEFING OFFICERS AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER INDICATED RECENTLY THAT CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD ASK PERMISSION FROM COMMISSION FOR INFORMATION BEFORE TYING TO ENTER VC AREAS.
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HOWEVER, IT SEEMS REASONABLY CLEAR THE GVN HAS BROADENED
ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD JOURNALISTS WHO VISIT PRG- CONTROLLED AREAS,
AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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